

# INTERNATIONAL SPY IS ARRESTED FOR BLACKMAIL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11.—Earl Armand Graves, a self-styled international spy and magazine writer, was arrested here today by agents of the Department of Justice and charged with attempting to obtain \$2,000 from Countess von Bernstorff, wife of the German ambassador, by threatening to publish letters alleged to contain matter derogatory to intimacies and failings.

Officials of the embassy also allege that Graves had in his possession what apparently were confidential code dispatches from the German government to Count von Bernstorff. The prisoner told the federal agents he obtained all the documents from persons who smuggled them past the British censors on the steamship Oscar II. The warrant upon which he was arraigned tonight and held on \$2,000 bail for a further hearing Wednesday, charges him also with bringing into the District of Columbia letters stolen in Hoboken, N. J., where the Oscar II docks.

In a statement after his arraignment, at which he entered a plea of not guilty, Graves asserted that he had no intention of blackmailing the countess, that he objected to the use of the word "blackmail" and that the papers he had in his possession were purely "disparaging" in character.

Much interest was expressed in official quarters at the interest shown by the manner in which persons and officials in Germany apparently are avoiding the British censorship in communicating with the German embassy here.

The arrest of Graves furnished a dramatic conclusion to speculations which had been in progress for a week between him and Prince Hatfield, counselor of the German embassy. Graves is said to have come to Washington last week and called at the embassy.

It was known there at the time who had published widely what he alleged to be important secrets of the German war effort, and the intelligence. He was known also as a man who previously had described himself as a member of the German secret service, and later as an ally in foreign fields of the British foreign service. "The master spy" he called himself.

Officials allege that upon entering the office of Prince Hatfield, he made it known that he had in his possession the papers which brought about his arrest today.

One letter, which he exhibited, was to Countess von Bernstorff, from her son, an officer in the German army.

He said according to statements made by federal officials tonight that he had other letters that would make "impressing" for the countess should they be published.

The official dispatches were said to be written in him for the reason that he would not decipher them. He claimed to have asked Prince Hatfield to prepare and sign a statement that the money had been paid for services rendered the German government.

Embassy officials said Graves threatened to turn over some of the documents to White House officials if the \$2,000 were not forthcoming.

Officials of the embassy were convinced that the letters had been obtained in some manner from a confidential messenger whose identity still is undisclosed. Federal officials declare Graves gave Prince Hatfield a certain time within which he was to comply with his conditions.

Prince Hatfield communicated with the district attorney's office here as soon as Graves left his office. Another meeting was arranged yesterday Graves telegraphed from New York that he would present himself later in the day. Prince Hatfield put \$2,000 into an envelope and, with two agents of the Department of Justice, went to his home here to await Graves. He failed to make his appearance, however.

This morning Graves called at the embassy and requested an appointment with Prince Hatfield at his home. A few hours later he arrived there and conversed with the countess for half an hour. One federal agent was hiding behind a door in the room. Another was in the street outside. A police detective was nearby. It is said that Prince Hatfield showed Graves the \$2,000 and that the latter said he would go to his hotel and get some of the documents he did not have with him. Leaving the house, he walked into the arms of a federal agent and was taken to the Department of Justice where for hours he was examined by A. Bruce Bielaski, in charge of the bureau of investigation, and his assistants. At the end of the examination, Mr. Bielaski swore out a warrant. All the papers in Graves' possession were taken from him.

The letter which Graves is alleged to have said would prove "embarrassing" to Countess von Bernstorff was touched, federal investigators asserted, in "understanding terms" and signed with initials only. It was asserted by the officials that the communication was from a woman cousin of

Count von Bernstorff, who has been taking care of his and the countess' business affairs in Germany.

Graves' first appearance in public after his arrest, was at the office of United States Commissioner Taylor where, surrounded by federal agents and police detectives, he was brought for arraignment. He was fashionably attired, swung a light walking stick and viewed the proceedings with a faint smile until the question of bail was brought up. He requested that he be permitted to secure a bond man, he be permitted to spend the night in a hotel, under guard of detectives, whose expenses he offered to pay.

"I should like," he said, "to be suspended the night in a cell."

It was understood, however, that he be locked up, unless bail should be furnished. A professional bondman furnished the required sum.

In reply to questions, Graves made the following statements to newspapermen:

"I have nothing so important to say. I may never make a complete statement. I am an American in every sense of the word. I have American ideas. I have received my intention of becoming a citizen of this country and have taken out my first papers.

"I am now a writer, a lecturer, and lately have been writing scenarios about my experiences as an international spy.

"I have been in this country two years and nine months. Yes, it is true that I was once connected with the British foreign office, but I am no more.

"I came to Washington for the sole purpose of disposing of the papers. I had no intention of blackmailing the Countess von Bernstorff. I object to the charge of blackmail. I do not like the word. I made no attempt to communicate with the countess. I do not deal with women. I dealt with Prince Hatfield.

"I will not at this time discuss the contents of the papers I had. I will say, however, that I was just employing the same methods which the German embassy has used in this country for the past two years and four months."

Graves admitted that he wanted to make money out of the letters. He said he paid \$2,400 for them and wanted to make a \$200 profit.

When Graves was searched, detectives found in one of his pockets a small combination knife and pistol. The detectives handled the add weapons carefully, until Graves told them it was "just a noise maker" and that the bullet it carried "would not even pierce a man's coat."

A high official of the embassy said tonight:

"We had this man arrested because we wanted to let it be known that no person attached directly or indirectly to this embassy can be made a victim of blackmailing schemes. We have no secrets."

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